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OCT 05 2001

Crescent Valley Public Meeting
October 5, 2001

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MS. DRENON: My name is Vicki Drenon. And I'm
3 reading these letters from -- this letter from Eureka County
4 for the record. It's addressed to Mr. Lake Barrett, acting
5 director, regarding October 5, 2001, public hearing sessions
6 in Crescent Valley, Eureka County, Nevada.

7 "Dear Mr. Barrett: Eureka County, Nevada, is an
8 affected unit of local government under Section 116 of the
9 Nuclear Waste Policy Act as amended.

10 "In letters to you dated May 21st, 2001, and
11 September 28th, 2001, we requested a full hearing on site
12 consideration to be held in Crescent Valley, Nevada.

13 "We recently learned that the Department of Energy
14 has scheduled 29 public hearing sessions, including two in
15 Crescent Valley. While we appreciate that DOE is willing to
16 come to rural Nevada counties to collect input from the
17 public on the Yucca Mountain Project, we are shocked by the
18 short notice provided.

19 "You may be aware we previously informed your
20 contractor that the Eureka County Board of Commissioners is
21 meeting on Friday, October 5th, at the county seat in
22 Eureka, 124 miles away.

23 "Due to this conflict and the short lead time for
24 getting the word out, we do not anticipate a turnout at the
25 October 5th field hearing, and our county officials will be
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1 unable to attend or participate. We expect to attend the
2 October 10th meeting and we are encouraging the Eureka
3 County residents to participate at that meeting.

4 "At the Draft EIS hearing, an overflow crowd
5 turned out in Crescent Valley to comment on that document.
6 Those residents are still waiting to read the final EIS and
7 the comment response document to understand how DOE
8 responded to their comments. Without the release of the
9 final EIS or the actual site recommendation, we believe
10 these hearings are premature.

11 "After DOE issues the final EIS and site
12 recommendation is forthcoming, we request a full public
13 hearing in Crescent Valley.

14 "Thank you for your consideration. Sincerely,
15 Leonard Fiorenzi, program director."

16 Okay. Next letter. Testimony of Governor Kenny
17 K. Guinn, U.S. Department of Energy Public Hearing,
18 September 5th, 2001.

19 "Good evening. On behalf of the citizens of the
20 State of Nevada, I would like to welcome you here this
21 evening and hope my remarks and the remarks of the many

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22 concerned Nevadans who will speak later will be taken in the
23 spirit in which they are intended, this is honest,
24 constructive and impassioned public input on an issue that
25 is paramount to the health and safety of every Nevadan and
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1 every American whose home, school or place of business sits
2 along the proposed path, that the deadliest substance on
3 earth, if the DOE has its way, will take to Nevada.

4 "This debate is not new. As many of you know,
5 Nevada's fight to keep the nuclear waste repository from
6 coming to Yucca Mountain has raged on for nearly 20 years,
7 unlike many of the policy battles that grip Washington;
8 however, this fight transcends party affiliations,
9 socioeconomic classes, race or gender and galvanizes
10 Nevadans from every corner of this state in opposition.

11 "Though the debate is not new, I must say that
12 recent developments, those that bring us here tonight, are
13 quite alarming and raise a number of new concerns.

14 "The very purpose for this meeting is in question.
15 You have invited me and many good people here tonight so
16 you, the Department of Energy, can gather public comment on
17 scientific evidence that is not complete and has not been
18 made public. Public comment in the absence of this
19 all-important evidence is premature and grossly
20 irresponsible.

21 "Ladies and gentlemen, this is not the way we do
22 business in Nevada, and certainly this is not the way the
23 government should handle its affairs.

24 "I am very disappointed that you have chosen to
25 disregard essentially all my office's recommendations and
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1 decided to hold these meetings prematurely and over our
2 reasonable objections.

3 "We in Nevada will not stand for it. Therefore, I
4 would strongly advise and today formally request you
5 schedule additional hearings over the course of the coming
6 months across Nevada to give our citizens and their elected
7 leaders a fair and appropriate chance to respond to your
8 completed findings.

9 "And I assure you on -- "I assure you my outrage
10 at the lack of protocol that has permeated this process will
11 be detailed in letters directly to Secretary Abraham and the
12 President. It is my sincerest hope that you recognize this
13 error and your duty to correct it.

14 "I don't have to remind anyone here today that it
15 was not long ago that Nevadans and all Americans were

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16 assured that nuclear testing was safe. It was less than 50
17 years ago. Since that time, the DOE admitted that the
18 aftermath of testing of the hydrogen bomb at Yucca Flats
19 caused innocent Americans to die, and that cancer benefits
20 should be paid to the families of the dozens of men and
21 women who were contaminated by the fallout from nuclear
22 testing.

23 "I am not talking about casualties of war in some
24 distant country. I am talking about the small farmers in
25 neighboring Utah who, tragically, suffered from contaminated
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1 nuclear air. I am talking about the Nevada workers and
2 their families who took the government at its word and
3 trudged to and from the test site every day with assurances
4 that they were not in harm's way.

5 "And I am talking about generations of patriotic
6 American families financially wiped out fighting cancer
7 while they waited for some word of admission or assistance
8 from their government. The DOE pathetically only made that
9 admission just a few years ago, and it came only after years
10 of denial and government red tape.

11 "Just yesterday we learned, for the first time,
12 that germ warfare testing -- imagine, germ warfare testing,
13 was conducted at that same test site without any knowledge
14 whatsoever by our own congressional delegation or my office.

15 "With a track record like this, it is no wonder
16 that the Department of Energy lacks credibility, not only in
17 Nevada, but also in our neighboring states.

18 "Given the history, I trust you can understand why
19 I view this proceeding as morally illegal, if not
20 technically so. It violates everything we believe in as
21 Americans. It duplicates all that was wrong in the past and
22 gives credence to the mistrust and cynicism harbored by so
23 many of our people.

24 "Our concerns are clear. This wonderful state has
25 been ignored for far too long. We demand fairness and we
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1 demand accountability in this process. We will not sit idly
2 by and let the Department of Energy run roughshod over our
3 citizens with empty promises and bad science. We did it
4 once in good faith as proud and loyal Americans, but sadly,
5 we did not get back what we gave. And so we've learned from
6 the past and we are not about to repeat it." Thank you.